THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) During the VII Five Year Plan, the total approved outlay for adult education programme was Rs. 360.000 crores, i.e., Rs. 130.00 crores in the central sector and Rs. 230.00 crores in the state sector. As against this, actual allocation of funds for the programme was Rs. 549.04 crores, i.e., Rs. 353.17 crores for central sector and Rs. 195.87 crores for the state sector.

(b) The central assistance given to the state government of Gujarat and various agencies working in the State during the VII Five Year Plan was of the order of Rs. 19.24 crores.

(c) According to latest information available, the number of persons enrolled under the programme during the period in Gujarat was 23.94 lakhs as against the total enrolment of 403.33 lakhs in the country.

(d) Under the National Literacy Mission, the target is to cover 80.00 million adult illiterates by the end of VIII Five Year Plan which includes the backlog of VII Five Year Plan.

(e) Allocation of funds for the adult education programme during the VIII Five Year Plan has not been finalised so far. It may, however, be noted that statewise allocation is not made under the programme and funds are released to various agencies, including state governments on the basis of actual requirement each year.

Targets of National Literacy Mission in Tamil Nadu

6. SHRI K. V. THANGKABALU: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) what target were fixed for National Literacy Mission during the Seventh Five Year Plan period and to what extent they have been achieved so far in Tamil Nadu;

(b) whether the State is lagging far behind in the field of literacy; and

(c) if so, what steps are being taken to step up the programme of educating people in the State under the mission?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY WITH ADDITIONAL CHARGE OF THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (PROF. M. G. K. MENON): (a) According to the information received from the State Government of Tamil Nadu, the coverage under the adult education programme during the Seventh Five Year Plan was 43.12 lakhs against the target of 46.00 lakh persons. Thus, the actual backlog in terms of enrolment, was only 2.88 lakh persons.

(b) No Sir, according to 1981 census, literacy rate in the State of Tamil Nadu was 46.76 per cent, compared to the national average of 36.23 per cent. In the field of literacy, the state already ranks 10th in the country.

(c) Attempts would continue to ensure still larger coverage of uncovered area and more illiterate persons under the National Literacy Mission by improving the pace and content of learning and mobilisation and involvement of larger number of teachers, students, educational institutions, ex-servicemen, employers, trade unions, voluntary organisations and other sections of the society in the programme.

Ecological Crisis in India

7. SHRI SHAMIM HASHMI: Will the PRIME MINISTER be pleased to state:

(a) whether an ecological crisis is believed to have gripped China, as per the UNDP report published in the Economic Times, dated 19th February, 1990;